

Minutes for Extraordinary meeting OAT Board of Trustees

Date: 10 June 2020

Time: 17:00

Location: Microsoft Teams

Present:

Paul Hann	PH	Chair
Nick Hudson	NH	CEO and Trustee
Janet Renou	JR	Trustee
Bal Samra	BS	Trustee
Mark Stanyer	MS	Executive Principal and Trustee
Peter Murray	PM	Trustee and Founding Chair
Ian Brookman	IB	Trustee
Kate Rutherford	KR	Executive Principal and Trustee
Andrew Jones	AJ	Trustee

Apologies:

Frances Hall	FH	Trustee
--------------	----	---------

In attendance:

Sunita Yardley–Patel	SYP	Clerk
James Murray	JM	Ormiston Trust CEO
Diana Murray	DM	Ormiston Trust
Rob Pritchard	RP	National Director of Education
Jane Nolan	JN	Director of Primary and SEND

Minutes:

Part	Discussion	Action
1	Welcome, introductions and apologies	
	PH welcomed everyone to the meeting. PH outlined that the meeting will focus on specific local circumstances rather than wider secondary re-opening as originally planned. This was in response to a change in government guidance.	
2	Minutes from the previous extraordinary meeting 29 May 2020	

	The minutes of the Extraordinary meeting of 29 May 2020 were approved.	
3	Overview of OAT's response to COVID19	
	<p>NH outlined that primary schools do not need to open more widely following government announcements this week although there is an expectation to bring back more children if there is the capacity to do so, once targeted year groups and keyworker children have been accommodated. Any wider opening is at the discretion of the individual school.</p> <p>NH added that secondary schools have been planning for 15 June 2020 wider opening and the focus this week has been on staff training</p> <p>TRP outlined an example of secondary wider opening plans and indicated that the numbers of students expected to attend is low. Staff have been training for the return to school with sessions covering the delivery of online lessons, behaviour expectations, management of student 'pods' and health and safety.</p> <p>The Trustees asked how principals are feeling about the wider opening.</p> <p>RP responded that principals and staff are keen to return to school and are reassured by OAT's cautious and supportive approach to wider opening. It was added that it is unlikely that primary schools will be able to facilitate wider opening. A principal trustee added that the room, staff and capacity are not available for wider opening of primary schools.</p> <p>The Trustees asked how support of student wellbeing is being addressed in the return to school plans. Principal Trustees outlined the current support measures in place.</p> <p>JN outlined the work that has been completed on future planning for wellbeing support including PSHE resources and specific resources for vulnerable and SEND students.</p> <p>Trustees noted the recent media focus on county lines and the increase of affected children and young people during the pandemic and asked whether there is a particular concern about this. NH responded that county lines is always a concern and there have been stringent safeguarding measures in place to keep track of vulnerable children during lockdown and schools are continuing to remind students of safeguarding procedures.</p> <p>NH outlined the recent media attention focussed on local R rates and the areas in which OAT schools are affected by this. There has been a meeting of local schools that has resulted in a preference for Cheshire and Merseyside schools to move to wider opening the week commencing 22 June 2020.</p>	

	<p>PH outlined that the official national R Rate is below 1 and therefore the criteria set out by the government has been met. However, the local media is reporting the that local R-rate is above 1 inline with local PHE reporting, this therefore needs to be considered.</p> <p>Trustees asked for clarification on the national R Rate and if schools have the flexibility to opt out of the central government directive based on local government information and advice. NH responded that the government advice is not mandatory, nor is it mandatory for children to attend school at the current time. Where schools take the decision for wider opening, national and local guidance will apply.</p> <p>Trustees asked, when there are numerous sources of guidance and opinions to be considered, where does the ultimate direction sit.</p> <p>The CEO responded that the criteria used should be R Rate as determined by PHE and Cambridge University. Where the R Rate goes above 1, this will trigger a process of review as to whether a school should be planning for wider opening or continue with wider opening. OAT is developing a framework for this decision-making process.</p> <p>There was a discussion about the conversations taking place across the education sector about the local and national R rate and development of policy and operational decisions. Information from a variety of levels and sources including RSCs and PHE is used to determine the best course of action for schools.</p> <p>Trustees requested that OAT spends time on policy development and scenario planning for ongoing wider opening.</p> <p>The Chair's name is to be added to a letter to the Secretary of State from Chairs of the largest MATs asking the pupil premium support be increased as a result of disadvantaged students becoming further disadvantaged as a result of the pandemic.</p> <p>There was a discussion about parental feedback and how this would be considered in the decisions for wider opening.</p>	
4.	Date of next meeting	
	The next Extraordinary meeting to be held 24 June 2020.	